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The Tolman Room

SINCE the erection of the present building, a small room adjoining the Photograph Room has been occupied by the "History of Art Series" of Photographs, a collection planned and developed by Miss Harriet Smith Tolman, and given by her to the Museum. The distinctive characteristic of this collection is its close classification, showing the development of schools, and the relation of lesser known artists to the great masters. This involves much study and close bibliographical work, but the result is of the utmost value to the serious student of the history of art. With the growth of this interesting collection has come the need of increased room, and this has been obtained by alterations recently completed.

The room has been lengthened ten feet by the inclusion of the adjoining portion of the photograph storage room, which was formerly a corridor leading to the Way Room. The walls have been retinted in a warm cream, and additional mahogany cases added to those that line the room, making of it a most attractive working place.

To compensate for the loss of photograph storage, a balcony nine feet wide has been built across the east end of the Photograph Room, and here the collection of magazine-clippings has been installed, with a table for students and another for the attendant who is engaged in mounting and filing the material as it comes in. Thus what is practically another room has been provided, giving the clipping file room for work and for expansion, while relieving the Photograph Room



Library Gallery

of the unavoidable confusion caused by its presence.

This arrangement is successful architecturally as well as practically, improving the proportions of what is a very high room; and its success seems to point to a further development of balconies as the best way of meeting the future congestion in the Library.

The entire expense of all these alterations has been borne by Miss Tolman.

F. S.



Photograph Collection: History of Art Series
Gift of Miss Harriet Smith Tolman